

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 161102Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3436
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4008

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE
EXDIS
EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, PO
SUBJECT: DUTCH AMBASSADOR ADVOCATES USING CSCE TO INFLUENCE
PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SITUATION

1. DUTCH AMBASSADOR ARNOUT DE WAAL ASKED TO SEE ME LAST NIGHT.
SAID HE WAS WORKING ON A CABLE TO HIS GOVERNMENT PUTTING FORTH
PERSONAL PROPOSAL ON WHICH HE WISHED HAVE MY VIEWS.

2. DE WAAL'S SUGGESTION IN ESSENCE WAS THAT WEST TELL SOVIETS
IT HOLDING UP CSCE UNTIL SITUATION HERE IMPROVES. HE ARGUED
THAT PORTUGAL WAS ON EUROPE'S DOORSTEP AND EVENTS HERE WERE
SERIOUS ENOUGH TO WARRANT PLAYING "TRUMP CARD."

3. I AGREED WITH HIM ON SERIOUSNESS OF RECENT EVENTS, BUT
POINTED OUT THAT NEITHER HE NOR I HAD THE PERSPECTIVE TO
MAKE THIS KIND OF JUDGMENT. EVEN ASSUMING THAT WESTERN
INTERESTS IN PORTUGAL WERE LARGE ENOUGH TO OVERRIDE WHATEVER
OTHER INTERESTS WE MIGHT HAVE IN PROCEEDING WITH CSCE I STILL
FOUND SOME DIFFICULTIES WITH HIS SUGGESTION. LIKELY SOVIET
RESPONSE WOULD BE "WE ARE NOT INTERFERING IN PORTUGAL." WHAT
WOULD WEST DO THEN, PROCEED WITH CONFERENCE OR CONTINUE TO
HOLD OFF? MOREOVER, THERE WAS A QUESTION OF WHAT ASSURANCES
WEST COULD ASK FROM SOVIETS. WE COULD HARDLY REQUEST THEY
ASSIST IN REMOVAL OF PRIME MINISTER, SUPPORT PLURALIST DEMOCRACY
OR GET COMMUNISTS OUT OF PRESS AND LABOR UNIONS. IF WE SOUGHT
GUARANTEES ON "DEMOCRACY" SOVIETS COULD SIMPLY POINT TO AFM
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STATEMENTS AND FUNCTIONING CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

4. DE WAAL RECOGNIZED THESE PROBLEMS, BUT SAID HE WOULD TAKE A MORE GENERAL APPROACH THAT CONFERENCE SHOULD BE POSTPONED "UNTIL WEST SAW A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN SITUATION IN PORTUGAL." HE ASKED IF I WOULD FORWARD A SUGGESTION SIMILAR TO HIS TO MY GOVERNMENT. I SAID I WOULD NOT FORWARD A PERSONAL RECOMMENDATION, BUT WOULD REPORT ON MY CONVERSATION WITH HIM AND ASK WASHINGTON FOR ITS GENERAL VIEWS. REQUEST REPLY.
CARLUCCI

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION INSERTED PER INSTRUCTION LISBON 4013.

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